

Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 6 - Acts 27:22-30 – August 22nd, 2010

- This is part six of a series titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms," as we study how Paul was able to get through all he went through.
- Needless to say, Paul is in the midst of a perilous storm that, unlike the Apostle, we know the ending, and how Paul is able to survive.
- Woven into the fabric of this detailed account are secrets the Holy Spirit reveals to us and for us in how we can survive life's storms.

- In verse 21, Luke tells us of their brokenness in how they were losing everything, and even fearing that they would lose their lives,
- This revealed our 10th secret, which is the need for brokenness in our life, in order that we might survive the storms that come in our life.
- Before we look at number 11, I want to take a moment to share with you a quote as it relates to what it means to be truly broken to Him.

It's from Roy Hession in his book; "When I Saw Him." In it he quotes an article entitled; "This Is Brokenness," by John Collinson, where he writes; "Sometimes it is asked what we mean by brokenness. Brokenness is not easy to define but can be clearly seen in the reactions of Jesus, especially as He approached the cross and in His crucifixion. I think it can be applied personally in this way:

WHEN to do the will of God means that even my Christian brethren will not understand, and I remember that "Neither did His brethren believe in Him" [John 7:5], and I bow my head to obey and accept the misunderstanding, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN I am misrepresented or deliberately misinterpreted, and I remember that Jesus was falsely accused but He "held His peace," [Matthew 26:63] and I bow my head to accept the accusation without trying to justify myself, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN another is preferred before me and I am deliberately passed over, and I remember that they cried, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas" [Luke 23:18], and I bow my head and accept rejection, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN my plans are brushed aside and I see the work of years brought to ruins by ambitions of others and I remember that Jesus allowed them to lead Him away to crucify Him [Matthew 27:31] and He accepted that place of failure, and I bow my head and accept the injustice without bitterness, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN in order to be right with my God it is necessary to take the humbling path of confession and restitution, and I remember that Jesus "made Himself of no reputation" and "humbled Himself unto death, even the death of the cross" [Philippians 2:8], and I bow my head and am ready to accept the shame of exposure, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN others take unfair advantage of my being a Christian and, treat my belongings as public property, and I remember "they stripped Him... and parted His garments, casting lots" [Matthew 27:28,35], and I bow my head and accept "joyfully the spoiling of my goods" for His sake,

WHEN one acts towards me in an unforgivable way, and I remember that when He was crucified Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" [Luke 23:34], and I bow my head and accept any behavior towards me as permitted by my loving Father, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

WHEN people expect the impossible of me and more than time or human strength can give, and I remember that Jesus said, "This is My body which is given for you..." [Luke 22:19], and I repent of my self-indulgence and lack of self-giving for others, THIS IS BROKENNESS.

- Be that as it may and suffice it to say; if we ever hope to survive the fiery trials in life - in those storms of life, there must be brokenness.
- In my own life, my obstinacy and unwillingness to bow my head in brokenness has actually unnecessarily prolonged the trial in my life.

11. Courage (Verses 22-26)

22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

-v22-23 Paul urges them to keep up their courage because God told him not to fear because no life will be lost, only their ship will be lost.

-v24 He tells them how the Lord had promised him that he would stand trial before Caesar in Rome and in His grace they will as well.

-v25-26 Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said, but, they'll still be shipwrecked on some island.

- If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord and - get our courage from the Lord.

Joshua 1:6-7, 9 - 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. ...9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

12. Commitment (Verses 27-30)

27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 28 They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. 29 Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. 30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

-v27-28 After two weeks at the mercy of this storm, finally at midnight on the 14th day, they find that the water is getting shallow.

-v29 Because they feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, "prayed for daylight."

-v30 Here, Luke tells us the reason they do this is because they want to escape so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.

- What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.

"The sailors, under pretence of casting out anchors from the bow, lowered the boat to make their escape, leaving the vessel and all the passengers to certain destruction'... Charles Spurgeon

- If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.

- I suppose we can learn from this that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed to - and stay in the boat.

- It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.